

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated and/or purified polypeptide comprising at least one epitope or epitopic region of PspC.
2. The polypeptide of claim 1 which is shorter than natural or full length PspC or PspA.
3. The polypeptide of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of: the alpha helical region, the proline region, the combination of the alpha helical and proline regions, the entire PspC molecule, amino acid(s) ("aa") of PspC clade A 1-590, 1-204, 46-204, 1-295, 46-295, 1-454, 46-454, 204-454, 295-454, 1-590, 46-590, 204-590, 295-590, 454-590, 1-652, 46-652, 204-652, 295-652, 454-652, 590-652, 1-892, 46-892, 204-892, 295-892, 454-892, 590-892, aa of PspC clade B 1-664, 1-375, 1-445, 1-101, 1-193, 1-262, 1-355, 101-193, 101-262, 101-355, 101-375, 101-455, 193-262, 193-355, 193-375, 193-445, 262-355, 262-375, 262-445, 355-375, 355-445, 375-445, 101-664, 193-664, 262-664, 355-664, 375-664, 1-end of proline subregion A, 1-beginning of proline subregion B, 101-end of proline subregion A, 101-beginning of proline subregion B, 193-end of proline subregion A, 193-beginning of proline subregion B, 262-end of proline subregion A, 262-beginning of proline subregion B, 355-end of proline subregion A, 355-beginning of proline subregion B, 375-end of proline subregion A, or proline subregion A, 375-beginning of proline subregion B, proline subregion B, beginning of proline subregion B-aa 664, 263-482, 1-445 and 255-445.
4. An immunogenic, immunological or vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims 1-3.
5. The composition of claim 4, further comprising at least one additional pneumococcal antigen or epitope of interest.
6. The composition of claim 5 wherein the at least one additional pneumococcal antigen or epitope is at least one different PspC or fragment thereof containing at least one epitope of PspC.
7. The composition of claim 5 wherein the at least one additional pneumococcal antigen or epitope is at least one PspA or fragment thereof containing at least one epitope of PspC.
8. The composition of claim 5 comprising the polypeptide being from PspC clade A, at least one different PspC or fragment thereof containing at least one epitope of PspC from PspC

clade B, and at least two different PspAs or fragments thereof containing at least one epitope of PspA.

9. The composition of claim 4 further including an adjuvant.
10. An isolated and/or purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims 1-3.
11. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 10 which is DNA.
12. A vector or plasmid comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 10.
13. A vaccine, immunological or immunogenic composition comprising the vector or plasmid of claim 12.
14. A method for eliciting an immunological response against *Streptococcus pneumoniae* comprising administering a polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims 1-3.
15. A method for eliciting an immunological response against *Streptococcus pneumoniae* comprising administering a composition as claimed in claim 4.
16. A method for eliciting an anti-PspA antibody comprising administering a polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims 1-3.
17. A method for eliciting an anti-PspA antibody comprising administering a composition as claimed in claim 4.
18. A method for eliciting an immunological response against *Streptococcus pneumoniae* comprising administering a composition as claimed in claim 13.
19. A method for eliciting an anti-PspA antibody comprising administering a composition as claimed in claim 13.
20. The method of claim 14 performed by administering an injection, or by oral, nasal, or mucosal administration.
21. The method of claim 15 performed by administering an injection, or by oral, nasal, or mucosal administration.
22. The method of claim 16 performed by administering an injection, or by oral, nasal, or mucosal administration.
23. The method of claim 17 performed by administering an injection, or by oral, nasal, or mucosal administration.
24. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 10 which is a probe or primer for detecting *pspC*, or *pspA*, or both *pspC* and *pspA*, or *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

25. A method for detecting *pspC*, or *pspA*, or both *pspC* and *pspA*, or *Streptococcus pneumoniae* comprising contacting the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24 with a sample and detecting hybridization, whereby hybridization is indicative of the presence of *pspC*, or *pspA*, or both *pspC* and *pspA*, or *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

26. A method for preparing a PspC protein or fragment thereof comprising obtaining expression thereof from the vector or plasmid of claim 12.

27. A method for preparing an immunogenic, immunological or vaccine composition comprising admixing a polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims 1-3 with a carrier or diluent and optionally an adjuvant.

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